

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. My phone bill is 20.00 a month with no long distance or any other feature on it except phone service with all the extra charges and fees added on its 30.00 a month where do all these local state and federal fees come from its getting to the point that people on fixed income can't afford the safety net that a phone gives you i can't get the lower rate because i don't meet the phone company list to qualify but my social security check is less than 600 a month what's up with this highway robbery of hidden charges you pay what they want or guess what no phone if i didn't need a phone for my computer i wouldn't have a house phone i would go to a pay as you go phone.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.